playing with the lives of the patients by purchasing inferior quality drugs or spurious drugs;

(c) if so, whether Government propose to take any step to prevent recurrency of such incidents in future and to penalize the guilty; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. ANBUMANI RAMDOSS): (a) and (b) The antiseptic vertinary 5% Providone Iodine IP solution, meant for local application, was received in Safdarjang Hospital along with the efficacy certificate from Government approved laboratory. The solution is used for human as well as veterinary use as there is no difference in the quality and strength.

As a statuary provisions, the label for use of human as well as veterinary should be indicated clearly on the bottle. As soon as this came to the notice of the hospital authority, the consignment has been sent back to the supplier, the entire cost recovered and the State drug Control Authority, Drug Controller (General) India have been informed. An enquiry has also been conducted by the hospital, in this matter and concerned staff have been shifted from the store.

(c) and (d) The existing system of inspection has been stregthened at all levels and the concerned persons have been advised to be careful in future in order to avoid such recurrence.

Programmes to control aids

1886. SHRI DHARAM PAL SABHARWAL:
PROF. P.J. KURIEN:

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that due to not getting hopeful result in bringing HIV/AIDS under control during the last many years in the country is among top such countries of the world where the number of deaths as well as the number of affected people is maximum;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the details of programme being chalked out to bring this situation under control in the coming years?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. ANBUMANI RAMDOSS): (a) and (b) No, Sir. As per NACO Sentinel Surveillance data, there are 5.2 million HIV infected persons in the country with an adult prevalence of HIV as 0.9%, whereas countries like South Africa with a population of 47.4 million has 5.5 million estimated HIV infections with an adult prevalence of HIV as 18.8%. Regarding the number of deaths due to AIDS, a total of 8689 deaths have been reported to NACO since the inception of the programme. Considering the underestimation of death, an Expert Committee is reviewing the assumptions for estimating HIV/AIDS related deaths in the country.

(c) In order to prevent and control the spread of HIV/AIDS in the country, Government of India has launched a Comprehensive National AIDS Control Programme throughtout the country since 1992 as a centrally sponsored scheme. Major focus of the programme is prevention among high risk as well as general population, care and support and provision of treatment to the needy. Under the programme, 1209 targeted intervention projects among high risk populations, Condom promotion through social marketing, 2815 integrated counseling and testing centres, 1138 Modern Blood Banks, 750 sentinel sites, 54 ART centres and 122 Community Centres are providing these services all over the country besides intensive education campaign to increase the awreness among general population.

Loopholes in Polio Eradication Programme

1887. SHRI HARISH RAWAT:
SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA:

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that rise in polio cases has been reported from different parts of the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof, region-wise;

(c) what are the reasons for the rise in polio cases despite Polio Eradication Programme being enforced,

(d) whether Government have ensured that the quality of vaccine and methods of vaccination are complied as prescribed;